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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORTS - FIVE ACRES -
THE BOYS' & GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES -
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM, EAST MOUNTAIN, MONTE
VISTA, AND SOLITA FACILITIES**

We have completed a review of the four agencies operated by Five Acres, the Residential Treatment Program (RTP), East Mountain, Monte Vista, and Solita. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

RTP is an eighty-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provides care for boys and girls ages 5-13 years who exhibit emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, RTP was providing services for seventy Los Angeles County DCFS children and four children from Ventura County.

East Mountain and Monte Vista are six-bed facilities located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provide care for boys ages 7-17 years who exhibit emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, East Mountain and Monte Vista were each providing services for six DCFS children.

Solita is a six-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provides care for girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Solita was providing services for six DCFS children.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that the four facilities were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with eight children placed in RTP and two children placed in each of the six-bed facilities at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the homes and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, all four homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we noted various areas where improvements are needed.

Residential Treatment Program

RTP needs to make repairs to its facility; have residents' placement workers participate in developing and updating the Needs and Services Plans; ensure that all residents receive at least fifty dollars per month toward clothing purchases and have the opportunity to regularly shop; and give all residents at least the required minimum weekly allowance.

East Mountain

East Mountain needs to make some repairs to its facility; secure tools when not in use; properly store frozen food; and maintain current court authorizations for the administration of psychotropic medication.

Monte Vista

Monte Vista needs to make some repairs to its facility and ensure that residents meet DCFS' clothing standards for quantity.

Solita

Solita needs to make some repairs to its facility and provide fresh fruit for the residents.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the agency's management. The agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
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Public Information Office
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David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
Robert A. Ketch, Executive Director, Five Acres

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' & GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES
Five Acres Residential Treatment Program
760 West Mountain View Street
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 798-6793
License No.: 191200236
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

Five Acres Residential Treatment Program (RTP) is an eighty-bed facility consisting of eight residential cottages (Dove, Eagle, Falcon, Kodiak, Lark, Sequoia, Spruce, and Willow). Located in the foothill area of Altadena, the facility has outdoor recreation areas, a culinary/dining area, non-public school, medical personnel, recreation rooms, offices, and meeting rooms. The exterior was nicely landscaped and maintained.

The common areas in the residential cottages were generally neat and clean with comfortable and well maintained furnishings. The kitchens and dining areas were spacious and clean, and the bathrooms were clean and adequately supplied. The bedrooms were nicely furnished, comfortable, neat, and decorated by the residents with posters, toys, stuffed animals, pictures, knick-knacks, awards, and other personal property.

However, there were areas that needed attention.

Kodiak cottage

The carpeting in the hallway outside of the second bedroom was stained. The wall behind the door in the bathroom off the second bedroom was chipped, peeling, and had water damage. The Formica face strip on the side of the vanity in the second bathroom was chipped.

Sequoia cottage

The baseboard molding was peeling in the toilet stall of the second bathroom.

Spruce cottage

Both the Formica countertop face strip under the kitchen sink and the Formica vanity top in the second bathroom were chipped. There were unfinished wooden boards attached to the wall that covered broken tile between the shower and toilet area in the second bathroom.

There was age-appropriate outdoor play equipment, a swimming pool, basketball and handball court, and a softball field. Each unit had a TV, DVD, VCR, table games, reading, and resource materials. There were arts & crafts, music and movement rooms, and a computer lab.

Lunches and dinners were served in the cafeteria adjacent to the main kitchen. Breakfasts and snacks were served in the cottages. There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations**1. RTP management:**

- a. **Clean/Replace the stained hallway carpeting in the Kodiak cottage.**
- b. **Repair the damaged area of the wall in the bathroom off the second bedroom in Kodiak cottage.**
- c. **Repair the Formica face strip on the vanity in the second bathroom in Kodiak cottage.**
- d. **Secure the baseboard molding in the toilet stall of the second bathroom in Sequoia cottage.**
- e. **Repair the Formica face strip under the kitchen sink in Spruce cottage.**
- f. **Repair the Formica vanity top and the damaged tile area in the second bathroom in Spruce cottage.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The residents met RTP's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, one resident's placement worker did not participate in developing and updating the NSP.

The NSPs were updated in the Quarterly Reports. The reports were current, comprehensive, timely, complete, and focused on the goals in the NSPs. One resident did not require a Quarterly Report at the time of the review.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

2. RTP management include each resident's placement worker in developing and updating the Needs and Services Plan.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The residents attended school. Seven residents required and had current Individualized Education Plans. Each resident's record contained report cards or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of RTP's program. The residents were involved in daily chores with personal hygiene care discussed as needed.

None of the residents were age-appropriate for emancipation or vocational services.

The residents were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

Each cottage developed and followed a monthly schedule of activities to which the residents provided input. Residents participated in age-appropriate activities such as sports, classes, and instructional workshops.

Outings were also part of RTP's program and included trips to the movies, restaurants, theme parks, the beach, and places in the community.

Transportation to and from activities was provided.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were seventy-four residents placed in RTP at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the fifty-five Los Angeles (LA) County residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

Fifty-one LA County residents receiving psychotropic medication had current court authorizations. The other four required and had parental authorization for their medication.

Documentation confirmed that fifty-three of the children were reviewed each month by the prescribing psychiatrist. Two residents were recently placed at RTP and had not yet been seen by the psychiatrist.

Medication logs were appropriately maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents stated that the rules were generally fair as were the consequences for not following them. They liked and felt safe in the home, liked the staff, and felt that they were treated with respect. The residents indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present and rated the facility from “fair” to “very good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult. The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement workers as they wished and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. The residents indicated that they had religious freedom and felt that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

The residents stated that their health care needs were being met, they had been informed about medication administered, and were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Eight

Comments:

The residents met DCFS’ clothing standards for quality. However, one resident did not have a jacket. Another resident claimed that except for his birthday, he had not been able to go shopping to pick out his own clothes and stated that staff would shop for his clothes. This was discussed with management during the exit conference who stated they were unaware that the resident was not going shopping on a regular basis.

The clothing logs reflected that at least fifty dollars a month was allocated for clothing purchases for seven of the eight residents. However, a review of the clothing logs indicated that fifty dollars per month was not being allocated for one resident. The development of new clothing allowance logs that reflected the monthly allocation, the balance for each resident, and the child's signature, was discussed with management who had no comment.

The residents received at least the required weekly minimum allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system. However, one resident stated, and allowance logs confirmed, that he had been impacted by fines causing him not to receive the minimum weekly allowance for his age. According to the Statement of Work, a child's base allowance cannot be used as a disciplinary measure.

RTP provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

3. RTP management:

- a. Provide each resident with a jacket.**
- b. Allow age-appropriate residents select their clothing.**
- c. Provide at least fifty dollars per month toward the purchase of new clothing for each resident and provide for purchases in a timely manner.**
- d. Provide each resident with at least the minimum weekly allowance as required by the Statement of Work.**

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' & GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

East Mountain Group Home

1885 East Mountain Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

(626) 798-6793

License No.: 191220045

Rate Classification Level: 09

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The East Mountain Group Home is operated by Five Acres – The Boys' & Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles. Located in an older residential area of Pasadena, the home was attractive, nicely landscaped, and blended well with other homes in the neighborhood. The facility also had a pool. However, the fiberglass pool slide had a broken support leg and wobbled. The exterior of the door to the swimming pool bathroom and the fascia board above the door were chipping and peeling. In addition, four window slats to the bathroom window were missing. The inside of the bathroom was being remodeled and a scraper tool had been left out unsecured. (Staff removed the tool at the time of the review.)

The interior of the home was generally clean with comfortable furnishings in good condition. However, the paint on the door leading from the living room to the kitchen was peeling.

The children's bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and decorated with posters, plants, pictures, and other personal property.

The facility's recreational equipment included a basketball goal, balls, table games, and bicycles. There were encyclopedias and a supply of other resource and age-appropriate reading materials. There were also table and electronic games, a TV, VCR, DVD, and a computer.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. However, there was an open box of frozen sausage patties in the freezer. Dating and rotation procedures were discussed with management during the exit conference.

Recommendations

1. Five Acres management:

- a. Replace the broken pool slide.**
- b. Refinish the wooden door and fascia board of the exterior bathroom.**
- c. Take appropriate measures to secure and supervise sharp tools when not in use.**
- d. Replace the window slats on the exterior bathroom.**
- e. Refinish the entry door to the kitchen.**
- f. Appropriately store open food items.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met East Mountain's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. The children and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The NSPs were updated in the Quarterly Reports which were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents attended school. One resident required and had a current Individualized Education Plan and both case records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of East Mountain's program. The residents were involved in doing daily chores, their laundry, and personal care.

The age-appropriate resident had the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational services. The other resident had recently turned fourteen years of age and would be referred to the next emancipation program. One resident was employed and able to manage his own money. Both residents were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

East Mountain followed a monthly activity schedule with input from the residents.

The residents were encouraged to participate in activities they desired. Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in East Mountain at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

One resident did not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication he was receiving.

The residents' medication was reviewed and consistently evaluated by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs were appropriately maintained.

Recommendations

- 2. East Mountain management maintain current court authorizations for all prescribed psychotropic medications.**

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents stated that the rules were generally fair as were the consequences for not following them. They residents liked and felt safe in the home. The residents felt they were treated "good" and with respect and indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present. The residents rated the facility as "very good" describing it as a "nice place to live" and "like a regular house."

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement workers and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated they had religious freedom and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food, felt that their health care needs were being met, had been informed about medication administered, and were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

East Mountain provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. East Mountain supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

East Mountain provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' & GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

**Monte Vista Group Home
2345 Monte Vista Street
Pasadena, CA 91104
(626) 798-6793
License No.: 191204494
Rate Classification Level: 09**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Monte Vista Group Home is operated by Five Acres – The Boys' & Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles. The home was attractive, nicely landscaped, and blended well with other homes in the neighborhood. However, the trim on the front bay window and the paint and texture coat above the window were peeling.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean with comfortable furnishings. The bedrooms were comfortable, spacious, and decorated by the residents with pictures, posters, knick-knacks and other personal property. However, there were areas that needed improvement.

The blue carpet outside of the lower bathroom was stained, the kitchen Formica countertops were worn, and the handle to a cabinet in the game room was missing.

In bedroom number one, the walls were dirty, in bedroom number two, the carpeting needed cleaning and, in bedroom number three, there was a hole in one wall and paint peeling from the other walls.

The facility's recreation equipment included a basketball goal, balls, kick bag, table games, and bicycles. There were encyclopedias and a supply of other resource and age-appropriate reading materials. There were also table and electronic games, a big screen TV, VCR, DVD, and computer.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit, properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Monte Vista management:

- a. Refinish the trim and texture coating on and above the front bay window.
- b. Repair the blue carpet outside of the lower bathroom.
- c. Replace the worn kitchen counter top.
- d. Replace the handle on the cabinet in the game room.
- e. Repaint the walls in bedroom number one.
- f. Clean the carpeting in bedroom number two.
- g. Repair/Repaint the walls in bedroom number three.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Monte Vista's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. The children and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The NSPs were updated in the Quarterly Reports which were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents attended school. One resident required and had a current Individualized Education Plan and both case records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was a part of Monte Vista's program. The residents were involved in doing daily chores, their laundry, and personal care.

Both residents had the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs though neither resident was age-appropriate for vocational training programs. The residents were not employed but able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Monte Vista followed a monthly activity schedule with input from the residents.

Residents were encouraged to participate in activities they desired. Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in Monte Vista at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the three residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

There were current court authorizations for the residents receiving psychotropic medications.

The residents' medication was reviewed and consistently evaluated by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs were appropriately maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents stated that the rules were generally fair as were the consequences for not following them. They residents liked and felt safe in the home. The residents felt they were treated "good" and with respect and indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present. The residents rated the facility as "good."

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement workers and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed overall satisfaction with the food, felt their health care needs were being met, had been informed about medication administered, and were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met DCFS' clothing standards for quality. However, one resident did not meet DCFS' standard for quantity, lacking enough outfits, socks, sweaters/sweatshirts and a jacket. This was discussed with management during the exit conference who stated that the child had been transferred from another facility where he had acquired clothing that was inappropriate, depicting gang affiliation in sizes, colors, etc. The clothing was currently being exchanged on a monthly basis with items that were more acceptable, until the child met the standards for quantity. Monte Vista supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Monte Vista provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

- 2. Monte Vista management provide each resident with sufficient clothing to meet DCFS' standard for quantity.**

FIVE ACRES - THE BOYS' & GIRLS' AID SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

**Solita Group Home
1236 Solita Road
Pasadena, CA 91104
(626) 798-6793
License No.: 191290123
Rate Classification Level: 09**

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Solita Group Home is operated by Five Acres - The Boys' & Girls' Aid Society of Los Angeles. The Spanish-style home was attractive, nicely landscaped, and blended well with other homes in the neighborhood. However, the large wooden support pillars on the porch were weathered and decayed at their base. In addition, the ground area in the easement between the garages was uneven and scattered with bricks and blocks.

The interior of the home was generally neat and clean with comfortable furnishings. The children's bedrooms were comfortable and decorated with pictures, posters, knick-knacks and other personal property. However, there were a few items that needed attention.

In the hallway, the air conditioner intake grill was bent. In bathroom number one, the paint was peeling and cracking around the doorway and opposite wall. In bathroom number two, the wall opposite the sink was cracked and, the bathroom door in bedroom number two, had black markings.

The facility's recreation equipment included a piano, basketball goal and balls, horseshoes, table games, and skateboards. There were encyclopedias and a supply of other resource and age-appropriate reading materials. The home had electronic games, a stereo, big screen TV, VCR, DVD, and a computer.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, and bakery items. However, there was no fresh fruit available for the residents. An outdated package of lunch meat was in the freezer which staff discarded. Dating and rotation procedures were discussed with management during the exit conference.

Recommendations

1. Solita management::

- a. Repair the front porch pillars.**
- b. Even the ground and replace the bricks and blocks from the easement area between the garages.**
- c. Repair the bent grill in the hallway.**
- d. Repair and refinish the walls in bathrooms number one and two.**
- e. Repaint the bathroom door in bedroom number two.**
- f. Maintain a supply of fresh fruit in the home at all times.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Solita's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. Both children and their placement workers participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The NSPs were updated in the Quarterly Reports which were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSPs.

The residents were receiving individual and group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents attended school. One resident required and had a current Individualized Education Plan and both case records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported they were provided a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of Solita's program. The residents were involved in doing daily chores, their laundry, and personal care.

The age-appropriate resident had the opportunity to participate in emancipation programs. Neither resident was age-appropriate for vocational training programs. The residents were not employed but able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Solita followed a monthly activity schedule of which the residents were able to provide input.

The residents were encouraged to participate in activities they desired. Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in Solita at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the four residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

Current court authorizations, or evidence of submission of authorization requests to the Court, were on file for the residents receiving psychotropic medication.

The residents' medication was reviewed and consistently evaluated by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs were appropriately maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. The residents stated that the rules were generally fair as were the consequences for not following them. The residents liked and felt safe in the home. The residents felt they were treated good and with respect and indicated that a sufficient number of staff were always in the home when residents were present. The children rated the facility as "good" and "very good."

Resident chores included the maintenance of their own rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

The residents were able to have telephone contact with their placement workers and felt that their phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Each resident indicated that they had religious freedom and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity.

The residents expressed satisfaction with the food, felt their health care needs were being met, had been informed about medication administered, and were aware of their legal right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Solita provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Solita supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Solita provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.